

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on August 8, 2003. Claims 1-10 are pending in the application with Claims 1 and 9 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, the specification and Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. The specification has been amended to comply with 37 CFR Section 1.77(b).

In the Office Action, Claim 4 was objected to for having the word "bijective." The word "bijective" is properly used in Claim 4 and it appears at several locations in the disclosure. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection with respect to Claim 4 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,469,275 issued to Edgar on November 21, 1995 ("Edgar").

Independent Claim 1 has been amended in a manner which is believed to better define Applicants' invention and to overcome the rejection. In particular, Claim 1 recites "A method of reproducing a gray scale image in colors, comprising the step of assigning a color value (x, y) and a brightness (Y) to each shade of gray, wherein the assignment between shades of gray and brightness is monotonic, wherein the assigned color values are selected from the range (U) of a predetermined reference color (x_R, y_R), and wherein the assignment of color values enables the human eye to differentiate between successive shades of gray." (Emphasis added)

Edgar does not disclose or suggest at least the limitations underlined above and recited by independent Claim 1. Edgar is directed to a method and apparatus for adjusting a gray scale spline, defined by a set of interconnected points. The method and

apparatus provide for adjusting a location of a first point previously located on the gray scale spline, adjusting a location of at least one other point, previously located on the gray scale spline, based on the adjusted location of the first point, generating a gray scale spline through the first point and the at least one other point, and producing an image using the generated gray scale spline. In Edgar, the computer code determines what point on the gray scale the user has selected and the direction and magnitude of movement the user has requested. Additional steps enable the computer code to determine whether any other points should also be moved relative to the movement of the user selected point prior to regenerating the gray scale spline. See column 8, lines 35-63.

Edgar does not disclose or suggest assigning color values to each shade of gray for enabling the human eye to differentiate between successive shades of gray, as recited by Applicants' Claim 1 and disclosed at page 3, lines 16-23. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and allowance of Claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-8 depend from Claim 1, and therefore include the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly, for the same reasons given for Claim 1, Claims 2-8 are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Hence, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) with respect to Claims 2-8 and allowance of Claims 2-8 are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 9 incorporates the limitations of Claim 1 by reference. Accordingly, for the same reasons given for Claim 1, Claim 9 and its dependent claim are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Hence, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) with respect to Claims 9 and 10 and allowance of Claims 9 and 10 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-10, are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call John Vodopia, Esq., Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 914-333-9627.

Respectfully submitted,



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